

room at near ceiling level. The nests, while active, were observed daily.

When discovered, each nest contained two elliptical, pearly white, unspotted eggs. No egg measurements were obtained because of the risk of disturbing the birds. Incubation was carried out by both sexes, alternately, throughout each day in both nests. It was impossible to distinguish the sex of the adults, but each bird took two or three turns at incubation daily. At night one adult remained on each nest while each mate roosted beside its respective nest.

On 17 September it was noticed that one pair of adults was absent for much of the day from their nest, probably because of disturbance created by my frequent observations. Over the next several days, they spent less time at the nest during daylight hours although they continued to roost at the nest site. On 20 September the nest appeared abandoned altogether, and three days later, the eggs were gone. It could not be determined if the eggs were destroyed by the adults or if they were taken by a predator.

Daily observations were continued at the remaining nest. On 28 September two nidicolous young were hatched. The nestlings were without down until 8 October when brown-grey down began to appear. By 20 October the nestlings were partially fledged and, on 8 November they both left the nest. They continued to roost with the parents in the vent until 3 January 1978 when the nest was collected for examination.

The nest consisted of a circular, shallow cup of feathers, dry grass and saliva, supported by a base of mud and dry grass. The cup measured 8.5 cm internal diameter and was 2.5 cm deep. It was also examined by G.R. Cunningham-van Someren and was deposited in the Section of Ornithology, Division of Natural Sciences of the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi.

From the time intervals of the successful nesting, the following may be concluded: the incubation period was at least 19 d (9 September, when the eggs were discovered, to 28 September when hatching occurred. The laying date was not known). Fledging time in the nest, before flight, was 41 d for both birds.

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Larry T. Schwab, Box 1366, Nakuru.

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GREENBULBS OF THE TAITA HILLS, S.E. KENYA The Taita Hills, rising to an imposing 2210 m in southeastern Kenya, were considered by Moreau (1966) as the northernmost outcrop of the Tanganyika-Nyasa montane complex. However, Dowsett (1971) was of the opinion that they, together with the Pares and Usambaras in northeastern Tanzania, had no connexion with the Tanganyika-Nyasa group, the northern limit of which he felt was best taken as the Ulugurus and their impoverished neighbours the Ukagurus and Ngurus.

Certainly the avifauna of the Taita Hills has much in common with that of the Pares and Usambaras and, despite their close proximity to Mt Kilimanjaro, they contain three very distinct and endemic subspecies. Surrounded by an ever increasing human population, less than 5 km² of

forest remain today on the Taita Hills, and the avifauna, though greatly impoverished, is typically montane in composition.

The family Pycnonotidae is represented by five species whose current status may be summarized as follows.

ANDROPADUS MILANJENSIS STRIIFACIES Stripe-cheeked Greenbul
Not uncommon along forest edge, occurring both in the canopy and at middle levels. Generally a rather shy and silent species.

ANDROPADUS TEPHROLAEMUS USAMBARAE Mountain Greenbul
Although previously unrecorded from Kenya, one individual of this distinctive race was seen briefly, but well, at very close range in company with two *A. milanjensis* along the forest edge on 14 August 1978. This race is common in the West Usambaras and is also recorded from the nearby South Pares. This would appear to be the first record of the Mountain Greenbul from the Taita Hills.

PYCNONOTUS BARBATUS LAYARDI Yellow-vented Greenbul
This ubiquitous species is common and widespread throughout the area.

PHYLLASTREPHUS FLAVOSTRIATUS TENUIROSTRIS Yellow-streaked Greenbul
Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) and White (1962b) give the range of this race as the Taita area of southeastern Kenya. The only known record of this is the female collected by V.G.L. van Someren on Mt Kasigau on 18 November 1938, now in the Chicago Museum (Rand 1958). Neither Chapin (1953) nor Hall & Moreau (1970) make reference to this record. The present status of this bird is unknown.

PHYLLASTREPHUS PLACIDUS PLACIDUS Placid Greenbul
A fairly common species occurring in small parties and frequently found foraging at the lower levels and amongst the forest floor leaf litter. I should like to thank Mr C.W. Benson and Maj M.A. Traylor for drawing my attention to the record of *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*.

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RED-TAILED GREENBUL *CRINIGER CALURUS* IN TANZANIA I recently provided P.L. Britton with some Tanzanian bird records for the period 1970-73 in case they were of interest for the forthcoming *Birds of East Africa*. Among them was a record of the Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* at Bukoba in West Lake. According to Britton (*in litt.*) this species was not collected in Bukoba District by either A. Loveridge or Th. Andersen, so that my sighting is still the only record for Tanzania. It is mentioned by Mann (1976) without details.

On 24 October 1970 several were watched in some large fruiting trees near the Bukoba Hotel, feeding with flocks of Rüppell's Long-tailed Glossy Starlings *Lamprotornis purpuropterus* and Splendid Glossy Starlings *L. splendidus*, and several Black and White Casqued Hornbills *Bycanistes*